



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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19 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

Today Ky told Ambassador Lodge that Tri Quang was calling off his struggle campaign. Ky said this should provide "some rest," and indicated he hoped to use this "calm period" to prepare for elections.

The Hué radio does appear to be lining up behind Tri Quang's new position, but radio Da Nang is still calling for the removal of Ky and Thieu, describing them as "traitorous dictators stubbornly allying themselves with foreigners." Both cities were generally quiet, although there were some scattered incidents of violence. [REDACTED]

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2. Vietnam

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3. Communist China

Peking is sending one of its top economic men on an official visit to Cambodia next week. His trip is the latest in a series of moves Peking is making to shore up its position in southern Asia. China is already Cambodia's major source of economic and military aid.

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4. Communist China

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5. Laos

Reports from friendly tribesmen who keep a close watch on the infiltration corridors in Laos indicate that over the past few weeks southbound traffic has been far lighter than the daily average of 25-30 trucks reached in December and January.

One of the principal factors contributing to the decline has been the heavy toll exacted on this traffic by US air attacks. In the past seven weeks pilots say they have destroyed some 300 trucks and damaged another 300. These record totals stem from more widespread and effective use of forward spotting.

6.. Soviet Union

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7. South Africa

Prime Minister Verwoerd has sent Wilson a tough letter saying that South Africa will resist all efforts to force it into applying sanctions against Rhodesia.

Verwoerd went on to warn that any attempt to extend these sanctions to South Africa would be opposed "by all the means at our disposal" and that the results on the British economy would be "dire."

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8. Ecuador

Provisional president Yerovi is deeply discouraged after only three weeks in office.

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